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October 3, 1961 - Tuesday

65°, overcast. Read transcripts of Rusk's three colloquies with Gromyko. I found little encouragement in them. As has always been the case, I have difficulty in snatching a few words with key officers in the Department. Most of their time seems to be spent in meetings, either interdepartmental or interagency. Many of these meetings are necessary, but I believe their number and frequency is grossly excessive.

Visited around the Department, and was none the wiser for my interviews with overworked people. Lunched at the Metropolitan Club with a covey of Ambassadors--Julius Holmes from Iran, Jack Hickerson from Manila, Homer Byington from I don't know where, and Ted Achilles of the Operations Center. We rolled dice for drinks and food; Hickerson and Byington were stuck with the checks.

Fiddled around in the Department this afternoon. Was telephoned from London about engagements, but could give no definite date for my return. Cancelled all engagements in New York. Dined at home with E on delicious fare sent in from the Metropolitan. Washed the dishes about nine o'clock. Poor Miss Schu is still at the office. Worked on a couple of speeches. It is raining.

October 4, 1961 - Wednesday

Temperature 60°. E left for New York to see Dr. Kling and take some tests. Elim and Al called me from London, as Tom Beale <sup>did</sup> ~~was~~ yesterday, about engagements there. I told them I was in the unhappy position of not yet knowing from the Secretary how long he wished me to remain here.

Went to a fascinating Security briefing in Bill Boaswell's shop. We were inducted into the latest mysteries and devilries of our enemies.

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Lunched at the 1925 F Street Club. Henry Brandon of the London Sunday

Times came to see me at home this evening.

I left him at 7:00 p.m. to meet Dean Rusk at the Department. We spent an hour or more alone. I was again struck by the clarity and precision of his mind. ~~unpleasant~~ He thought a UN presence in Berlin--perhaps by the removal of subsidiary organs from Geneva--would be useful, but does not favor the transfer of the capital from New York. He believes its siting in the United States is, on the whole, useful to us.

I did not question him on the matter, much discussed and frequently criticized here, of why the US and the other occupying powers did not, when the Berlin sector closing occurred, drive through the obstacles with tanks.

Dean gave me various instructions and messages for Alec Home, whom he much admires and trusts.

After we ~~had~~ absorbed some Bourbon, I left him to his work and went off to the lighter pleasure of supping with Jane McBaine.

October 5, 1961 - Thursday

To the Department this morning. Then I packed and flew to New York. Strolled about, talked oil with Andy Butler and Jim Durbin (President of Barber Oil Co) before going to see Marietta and Romulo Tree, where I hugely enjoyed myself.

Picked up E, who is staying at the Jaretskis, and dined her at the Italian Pavillon.

We went to the Brigitte Bardot movie, "Truth" (La Verite). Wonderful show, acting in parts superb. B.B. lush.

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